

[27th August 1926]

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ It does not follow, Sir, from the answer given, that wherever these members are appointed the Adi-Dravida community will be deprived of their seats.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether they represent only the backward communities? I mean the barbers and washermen, as apart from the depressed classes.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Wherever a particular community is considered to be more important than another, a member is nominated from that community.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether they take the population of the community into consideration when they make such nominations to local boards? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ All those things are taken into consideration before nominations are made.”

*Appointment of one Madon to Kayalpatnam Union Board.*

\* 2366 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : With reference to question No. 521, answered before the meeting of 28th October 1925 will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Adi-Dravida by name Madon of Kayalpatnam was already appointed as a member to represent the depressed classes to the Kayalpatnam Union Board, Tinnevely district, if not, why not?

A.—No. The Government understand that there has been no vacancy among the nominated members of the Kayalpatnam Union Board since they advised the appointment of an Adi-Dravida.

*Nominations to the South Kanara District Board.*

\* 2367 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased—

(a) to place before the House a statement of the names of Indian Christians on the District Boards and Taluk Boards of South Kanara, Malabar, Coimbatore, Nilgiris and Salem districts as they stood on 1st April 1926 showing their religion and sect—Catholic, Protestant or Syrian Christian; and

(b) to state (i) whether the Indian Christian Civic League of South Kanara recommended in 1925-26 the name of a Protestant as well as a Catholic for a likely vacancy of a seat of an Indian Christian and (ii) why two Roman Catholics were nominated by Government while there was already a Catholic elected member on the Board in preference to the Protestant candidate?

A.—(a) A statement<sup>a</sup> furnishing the information required is placed on the table.

(b) (i) No such recommendation is traceable.

(ii) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (d) of question No. 1934.

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ Sir, with reference to the table which is printed on pages 297–298 of the answers, will the hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to explain why in the taluk boards of Coimbatore, Gobichettipalayam, Erode, Pollachi and Kollegal, where there are so many highly cultured and advanced Indian Christians, there are no Indian Christians in any of those boards? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ The appointments of members of taluk boards are made by presidents of district boards.”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ This Council is perfectly aware of that fact. But when there is a clear omission on the part of the district board president to nominate a single member of the Indian Christian community in all those taluk boards, will the hon. the Minister explain why they were not appointed? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ It is a matter left to the discretion of the president of the district board.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Is it not laid down in the statute that these minority communities must find representation on the local bodies? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ What is laid down in the provisions of the Act is that regard must be had to representation of minority communities.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ When the president of the district board is deliberately disobeying such a provision, is not the hon. the Minister competent to enquire into such a matter? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ From time to time, the Government have been issuing instructions to the presidents of district boards.”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ When the presidents persistently disobey, as in the case of Coimbatore and some other districts, does it not behove on the part of the Government to take serious notice of this neglect of the rule? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Government take notice of those things. But there is no provision in the Act to enable the Government to inflict punishment on them. It is for the electorate to take these things into consideration.”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ Why should not the Government make necessary legislation when experience has shown this defect? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ That is a suggestion for action.”

*Amendment of the Madras Municipalities Act.*

\* 2368 Q.—Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have consulted the opinion of all the municipal councils in this Presidency regarding the amendment to the Madras Municipalities Act in regard to making the Revenue Officer responsible to Government and independent of the councils;

(b) how many municipal councils are in favour of the proposal as a whole, how many for a portion of the proposal and how many are against the proposal; and